Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SSM-03 SES-02 SAA-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /080 W

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R 180211Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3013 INFO USUN NEW YORK 362 AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 4289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, NP, UN

SUBJECT: LEBANON UNIFIL CONTINGENT

- 1. DATT HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT ROYAL NEPALESE ARMY (RNA) ANTICIPATES ROTATION OF NEPALESE UNIFIL CONTINGENT IN OCTOBER. RNA HAS SELECTED REPLACEMENT TROOPS AND OFFICERS, ASSEMBLED THEM IN KATHMANDU AREA AND BEGUN TRAINING AND ORIENTATION.
- 2. ON BASIS OF DATT INFO, AMBASSADOR RAISED QUESTION WITH MFA SECRETARY BHATT DURING MEETING ON AUGUST 16. BHATT CONFIRMED THAT ROTATION PREPARATIONS AS DESCRIBED BY DATT WERE GOING FORWARD, ADDING THAT GON HAD NOT YET RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE UN IN NEW YORK. BHATT EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING UNIFIL HAD A TIME LIMIT NECESSITATING A NEW MANDATE. HE SAID THAT NEPAL IS FULLY PREPARED TO CONTINUE ITS CONTRIBUTION OF TROOPS, BUT ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS.
- 3. OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY BHATT INCLUDED THESE: MODALITIES OF ROTATION: WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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ENTIRE BATTALION MOVE AT ONCE OR WOULD DEPARTING AND ARRIVING ELEMENTS BE STAGGERED? WHO WOULD PROVIDE AIR-LIFT AND WHO WOULD PAY? (BHATT DOUBTED THAT ROYAL NEPAL AIRLINES CORPORATION WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE AIR-LIFT FOR OCTOBER ROTATION. HE MADE CLEAR THAT IN ANY CASE AIR-LIFT EXPENSES COULD NOT BE PAID BY NEPAL.)

4. WHILE DISCUSSION OF THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD OBVIOUSLY, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, BE BETWEEN NEPAL AND THE UN, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO BE AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE, SINCE WE ARE LIKELY AT SOME POINT TO BE DRAWN ACTIVELY INTO DISCUSSIONS. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REQUESTED. HECK

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